

4712 Ferncreek Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I would like to express some of my opinions regarding the settlement agreement between your Department and Microsoft. I feel that it is fair, reasonable, and extensive. I do not see the need for further federal action, especially when nine states have approved the agreement. Microsoft is currently negotiating with the opposing states to reach a conclusion. Not only does this agreement address the issues that brought about the lawsuits, but it provides direction in dealing with future problems as well.

Although the settlement calls for concessions that make antitrust precedent, Microsoft has agreed in an effort to end this case sooner rather than later. The company will stop retaliating against those that design or promote non-Microsoft programs, and will allow computer makers to configure Windows so as to promote those programs. Most importantly, a technical oversight committee will ensure Microsoft's compliance with these concessions, and competitors will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly if they feel they've been treated unfairly.

I appreciate you taking time to consider my views on this issue. We must bring certainty and stability back to the IT sector. This agreement will allow the market, the industry, and the economy to move forward.

Sincerely,


Erwin Oetken